

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1.-13. **(Canceled)**

14. **(Currently Amended)** A device for cooling and calibrating plastic profiles, comprising

- a housing having an entry opening and an exit opening for a profile to be processed;
- a sleeve disposed within the housing which connects the entry opening and the exit opening and encloses a passage essentially corresponding to the outer contour of the profile and containing the profile to be guided, said sleeve completely surrounding the profile inside the device;
- a vacuum system for generating a vacuum in the gap between profile and sleeve, which is connected to small openings provided in the sleeve; and
- at least one interior space which is filled with a cooling medium during operation of the device and is provided with an inflow opening and an outflow opening for cooling medium such that a flow of the cooling medium can be generated in the interior space;

wherein the sleeve includes at least one thin-walled section separating the passage from the interior space, and openings are positioned in this section which connect the passage and the interior space, and wherein said vacuum system includes a vacuum means connected to said outflow opening.

15. **(Currently Amended)** A device according to claim 14, wherein the openings which connect the passage and the interior space are at least partly configured as bores having a diameter ~~of less than~~ between 0.5 and 1.0 mm.

16. **(Currently Amended)** A device according to claim 14, wherein the openings which connect the passage and the interior space are at least partly configured as bores having a diameter between 0.5 and 0.7 mm.

17. **(Currently Amended)** A device according to claim 14, wherein the openings which connect the passage and the interior space are at least partly configured as slits whose width is less than 1.0 mm.

18. **(Currently Amended)** A device according to claim 14, wherein the openings which connect the passage and the interior space are at least partly configured as slits whose widths are ~~about less than~~ 0.7 mm.

19. **(Previously Presented)** A device according to claim 14, wherein the sleeve has a thickness of less than 6% of the diameter of the profile to be processed.

20. **(Previously Presented)** A device according to claim 14, wherein the sleeve has a thickness of less than 3% of the diameter of the profile to be processed.

21. **(Previously Presented)** A device according to claim 14, wherein the sleeve, in addition to the openings, includes at least one air feeder opening which communicates with an air chamber.

22. **(Previously Presented)** A device according to claim 21, wherein the air feeder opening is connected to the air chamber via an air feeder line in which is disposed a control valve.

23. **(Cancel).**

24. **(Previously Presented)** A device according to claim 14, wherein the housing and the sleeve consist of a plurality of parts and can be disassembled during operation.

25. **(Cancel).**

26. **(Previously Presented)** A device according to claim 14, wherein a plurality of housings are positioned on a common ground plate one behind the other and aligned in longitudinal direction.

27. **(Currently Amended)** A device according to claim 14, wherein ~~the outflow is connected to~~ said vacuum means comprises a self-priming water pump in order to create the low pressure in the interior space.

28. **(Previously Presented)** A device according to claim 14, wherein the openings are located primarily in areas corresponding to the visible areas of the profile.

29. **(Previously Presented)** A device according to claim 14, wherein the openings are configured at least partly as slits on the interior

wall of the sleeve, said slits communicating with the outside of the sleeve via bores.